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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SAMADI (Islamic Republic of Iran)
(Vice-Chairman)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 87: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/50/21, A/50/462)

1. Mr. SALLAM (Yemen) said that in view of the major role of information in international affairs at the current time, there was a need to draw up a comprehensive United Nations public information strategy, particularly with regard to such aspects as peace, democracy and development. That strategy should be based on the principles of trustworthiness, objectivity and consideration of the different priorities of individual countries and peoples. It should be kept in mind that the exchange of information among peoples ensured their cultural interaction and served as a means for maintaining peace and strengthening trust. The mass media played an important role in devising that strategy, and the Department of Public Information (DPI) should continue to coordinate relations between the Organization and national and international mass media.

2. His country attached importance to freedom of the press as a basis of democracy. The decision to hold an international seminar on questions relating to information under the auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO in Sana'a at the beginning of January 1996 reflected that fact. The opening in Yemen of a United Nations information centre, which would play a coordinating role in reporting on the problems dealt with by the Organization in the national mass media, was yet a further important development in that field. His Government would support in every possible way the activities of the centre, inter alia, by providing the necessary materials for reporting on the life of the Yemeni people in conditions of development, peace and democracy.

3. Mr. AL-HASSAN (Oman) said that lately the United Nations was frequently being subjected to unjustified criticism, which, to a large extent, was due to an insufficient understanding of the Organization's role in the contemporary world and insufficient awareness of its successes, particularly in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Department of Public Information (DPI), which should help correct misconceptions about the Organization's activities, must play a special role in that regard. Objective criticism should be constructively analysed and measures should be taken to remedy shortcomings. It was also necessary to strengthen coordination between the Committee on Information and the Department, which would make it possible to enhance significantly the effectiveness of the Organization's activities in the field of public information. The Committee on Information, which must protect the interests of the world community as a whole and ensure that narrow bureaucratic approaches did not predominate in that area, had a particular role to play in that connection.

4. Certain groups, motivated by selfish interests, were seeking to denigrate the United Nations before international public opinion. DPI must make the necessary efforts to inform public opinion and refute the fabrications designed to discredit the Organization.

5. Making use of the experience gained during the successful information campaign against apartheid in South Africa, the Department should now focus its efforts on other negative aspects of life in the world community, such as international terrorism, narcotic drugs and various forms of intolerance. The Organization's activities in the field of public information must be continuously adapted to the changing conditions of contemporary life.

6. Mr. VALDES (Cuba) said that at the current time, during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, there was a unique opportunity to promote the taking of specific measures to eliminate the lack of equality in the world in terms of the dissemination of information, which had a negative impact, in particular, on the situation in developing countries. Cuba was one of the third world countries which was experiencing the effects of such inequality. It continued to be the target of attacks carried out by radio and television, which his delegation had repeatedly drawn attention to in the Committee. The United States of America, continuing to ignore the views of specialized agencies and the readiness of Cuba to establish a serious exchange of information on the basis of the principle of sovereign equality of States and mutual respect, had not halted its illegal television and radio broadcasts directed against Cuba, openly violating the most basic norms of coexistence and international law. The United States allocated more than $11 million annually for the aggressive television campaign against Cuba alone. The international frequency registration committee had criticized that anti-Cuban broadcasting. That position was expressed by many international forums, including that of the non-aligned countries. Cuba once again condemned that aggressive practice, which was in violation of international legal norms and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirmed its readiness to continue work to eliminate the existing imbalances in the dissemination of information.

7. Mr. ALVAREZ GOYOAGA (Uruguay) said that the importance of the special relationship that had always existed between the Organization and the information media, had increased in connection with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Nevertheless, it should be recognized that at the current stage, which was characterized by a lack of financial resources, one could not make unnecessary expenditures or cut off the financing of information programmes, which had demonstrated in practice their useful role. With regard to the activities of the Department of Public Information, recognition should be given to the very high level of the "UN Minute" video segments covering the Organization's history and also increased Internet access to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library database. His delegation supported the policy of integrating the information centres provided that preliminary consultations were conducted with both the Governments of receiving countries and the corresponding agencies and departments, particularly UNDP and DPI.

8. His country also agreed with the views expressed in the Committee on Information on the inadvisability of limiting access by visitors to the General Assembly Hall and the Security Council Chamber, even during official meetings, except in cases where confidential questions were being considered. That would help carry out the task of disseminating information about the Organization's most important activities.

9. Uruguay had always felt that the rules and guiding principles for strategies on providing information on peace-keeping operations should be laid down in specific documents and, therefore, supported the recommendations contained in annex III to the report of the Committee on Information (A/50/21).

10. Mr. MAXIMOV (Bulgaria) expressed support for the statement made by the delegate of Spain on behalf of the European Union at the Committee's previous meeting and said that Bulgaria shared wholeheartedly the desire of Member States to reform and modernize the Organization. In that regard, the public information policies and activities of the United Nations were of paramount importance in enhancing the role of that global body, strengthening its authority and gaining universal support for its work worldwide. The experience of the last 50 years demonstrated that the international community expected the Organization to take practical measures and seek solutions to various global, regional and even domestic problems and it was particularly important to disseminate information on its work to that end. The broadcasting and free exchange of accurate and objective information were indispensable conditions for building trust and understanding among peoples and maintaining international peace and security.

11. At the national level, Bulgaria had created the conditions necessary for the diversification of its mass media. Thanks to free enterprise, a number of popular daily and weekly newspapers enjoyed mass circulation and dozens of private radio stations and some independent television companies were now in operation. Those developments were the practical outcome of the Bulgarian Government's efforts to enhance the implementation of the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental human rights and freedoms relating to the obtaining and disseminating of information and the freedom of opinion and expression.

12. He wished to highlight the positive role played by the United Nations information structures in promoting the processes of democratization in the newly emerging independent States, as well as in countries with economies in transition. An example of the work of the Department of Public Information in that area was its annual training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries in transition. Bulgaria noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the partnership between DPI and other Secretariat departments and bodies of the United Nations system undertaken with a view to designing and implementing a comprehensive, coordinated and unified United Nations public information strategy. That integrated approach enabled the Department to respond adequately to the growing interest of the international community in the Organization's peace-keeping, sustainable development and human rights work and its other major activities. The Department's work in connection with the celebration of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary and the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly deserved special praise.

13. It seemed appropriate to address the question of cooperation between DPI and the Committee on Information. That cooperation had become particularly fruitful since the ideological differences in the Committee had been overcome and a constructive and cooperative atmosphere established. The Committee continued to apply an innovative conceptual approach to its various tasks in the field of information, and the Bulgarian delegation wished to reiterate its

support for the dynamic way in which the Department's work was being managed. Bulgaria believed that the Department should play a more active role in interdepartmental consultations and coordination in such priority areas as preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building. The Department's new structures and working methods should be examined and tested in practice with a view to redeploying its staff to high priority information tasks and projects. Given that radio was one of the most cost-effective media available to the Department and an important instrument for United Nations development and peace-keeping activities, the Bulgarian delegation believed that the Department should be allocated the necessary resources for its work in that area.

14. With regard to the United Nations information centres, the grave financial problems of the Organization, particularly the limited resources allocated to DPI, made it imperative to examine the Secretary-General's proposal to integrate the centres with other United Nations field offices where appropriate, provided that there was support from the respective host Governments. Of particular interest to Bulgaria was the establishment within the United Nations Development Programme office in Sofia of an information component which would utilize national expertise and joint financing, reducing to a minimum the operational costs borne by the Organization.

15. Mr. MENKES (Russian Federation) said that half a century after the inception of the United Nations, new and very grave problems were emerging which could be solved only through vigorous and effectively coordinated action by all peace-loving forces. Democratic Russia was participating actively in the discussion of the role and place of the media in society and in the search for optimal solutions to that problem. The President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, speaking on 1 September 1995 in Moscow at a forum of the democratic press, had called for the drafting and implementation of a State information policy and proposed that a council should be created to advise the President on information policy. In Russia, the print and electronic media were becoming a powerful, independent force, reflecting the country's entire political spectrum and representing, overall, an important factor in the process of democratic reforms. The character of the parliamentary and presidential election campaigns would depend to a large extent on the position adopted by the media.

16. The discussions during the seventeenth session of the Committee on Information and its results had shown once again that the community of nations was still faced with many unresolved tasks regarding both the conceptual understanding of information problems, including the development of international contacts in that area, and the specific areas for DPI activities. The Russian delegation shared the view that the Department had carried out with great professionalism the large amount of important work entailed by the celebration of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary.

17. With regard to the new world information order, the Russian Federation sympathized with the concerns of the non-aligned States in the field of information and believed that the solution to the problem lay not in confrontation but in the development of international cooperation. The Russian delegation agreed with delegations of other States that it was essential to

further expand information activities in the context of the United Nations peacemaking operations. There was a need to broaden the role of the Department of Public Information in preparing the information components operations of that type.

18. His delegation drew attention to the small number of publications issued by the United Nations in the Russian language and expressed concern at the fact that the situation was similar with regard to the use of Russian in other areas of United Nations information activities. The Russian language continued to be the basic source of information not only for citizens of the Russian Federation, but also for tens of millions of ethnic Russians in several other countries, primarily those of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

19. Countries with economies in transition had specific interests in the information sector, and his delegation considered that the Department of Public Information had a role to play in making United Nations organizations and agencies aware of those interests. His delegation, along with those of Belarus and Ukraine, had proposed the inclusion in the text of draft resolution B of a new version of the previous year's operative paragraph pertaining to information activities for the tenth anniversary in 1996 of the Chernobyl disaster. Through the joint efforts of those three delegations and the staff of the Department, a working plan of scheduled events had been prepared. Everything possible should be done so that the subject of that disaster which had affected the entire planet continued to receive attention from the international community.

20. Mr. HAMDAN (Lebanon) said that his delegation was most satisfied with the activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information. It expressed gratitude to the staff of the United Nations Information Centre in Beirut which had remained open throughout the war for their devoted efforts. Two libraries had been designated United Nations depository libraries in Lebanon in 1995 and would be an important source of information for the Lebanese public. The delegation of Lebanon welcomed the convening of a seminar for the Arab region in Sana'a from 6-11 January 1996. Furthermore, it fully supported the efforts of the Department in the development of a central broadcasting capacity in support of peace-keeping operations and humanitarian missions.

21. In proportion to the size of its population and its territory, Lebanon surpassed all Arab countries in the number of newspapers published. By 1994, in addition to 60 periodicals, about 30 daily newspapers were estimated to be in circulation. Approximately 50 television channels transmitted over Lebanese territory, 18 of them for the Beirut area alone. Radio broadcasting was also flourishing in Lebanon; about 100 stations were transmitting programmes on different wavelengths, and some of them covered the world. The rapid and unregulated expansion of the media sector during the war had compelled the Parliament of Lebanon to adopt a new law on information which called for the reorganization of the media and guaranteed freedom of speech and respect for democratic norms and the rights of citizens by regulating all matters related to the technical and legal aspects of information.

22. Within the framework of its 10-year reconstruction programme, the Government had allocated more than $160 million for the purpose of rehabilitating its telecommunications infrastructure and meeting its electricity

needs. The Lebanese media had an important role to play in the country's reconstruction, and provided support to and promoted understanding of the task Lebanon faced in rehabilitating its institutions and speeding up its political and economic development.

23. Mr. YOOGALINGAM (Malaysia) said that developing countries as a whole suffered from a lack of sufficient information and communications infrastructures. The situation was further compounded by uneven reporting by the media, which were controlled by Western countries. Freedom of information was not the privilege of a chosen few to be used by them to corrupt the culture and moral values of the vast majority. In that regard, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia had proposed putting in place a code of conduct that would regulate the flow of information. The United Nations should be in the forefront of cooperation in issues pertaining to cyberspace in order to ensure the full involvement of the international community. The information superhighway and the world of electronic and satellite communication should continue to help build bridges of understanding between the peoples of the world. His delegation believed that all countries, rich and poor, should have equal access to the free flow of world information.

24. Malaysia noted with appreciation the efforts of the Assistant Secretary-General to establish an interdepartmental working group on media strategies for peace-keeping and other field operations and welcomed the efforts of the Department of Public Information to project an image of unity for the United Nations by expanding communication with the United Nations regional commissions and working with its specialized agencies through the Joint United Nations Information Committee. His delegation also expressed appreciation to the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund for promoting the idea of an inter-linked continuum of major events in the field of economic and social development.

25. Mr. TEE Bee Lock (Singapore) said that continuous technological innovation was facilitating ever wider and faster dissemination of information. The speed and ease with which information crossed national boundaries was redefining basic concepts like sovereignty. As a result, attitudes to economic development were changing. One key issue that needed greater study was the concept of responsibility, which had thus far been somewhat neglected. Since information had real consequences, attention should be focused on the kind and quality of information that was disseminated. More information did not necessarily mean better information. It was not a matter of introducing restrictions. However, freedom of information did not imply complete freedom of action. It was not an absolute right. Like all freedoms, it had to be balanced with certain responsibilities. To set an absolute standard was not only impractical, but harmful.

26. The greater technological ease with which information was now disseminated should bring with it a more stringent standard of objectivity and accuracy and the means for correcting errors and preventing the dissemination of harmful information. That was not a new idea. In 1952, the General Assembly had opened for signature an international treaty called the Convention on the International Right of Correction. Its purpose was to combat the dissemination of false and distorted reports likely to injure friendly relations between States. That

Convention was an example of the fact that freedom of information had never been internationally recognized as an unqualified or absolute right, regardless of the national practice of certain Member States. Technological developments, the greater ease with which information was disseminated and its ever increasing significance might make it appropriate to take another look at the basic ideas contained in that Convention. The Committee on Information might consider how that Convention could be updated to take into account technological developments.

27. In conclusion, he commended the Department of Public Information for promoting greater awareness of the United Nations and its activities. However, much remained to be accomplished, especially in examining means of ensuring more responsible dissemination of information. In particular, the Department might want to look at ways to handle irresponsible criticisms of the United Nations more effectively.

28. Mr. MATESIC (Croatia) said that the free flow of information was necessary not only for facilitating economic development but also for constructive interaction and communication among States and peoples. It was therefore an important instrument in the promotion of international peace and security. Accurate and objective information was also necessary in order to counter any dissemination of negative propaganda which could create misunderstanding and undermine friendly relations among States.

29. Since the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the dismantling of the information centre in Belgrade, the Republic of Croatia had not been covered by a United Nations information centre. As the posts of the former information centre in Belgrade had not been abolished, his delegation believed that careful consideration should be given to reserving at least one of those posts for the Republic of Croatia as one of the successor States of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. That could best be accomplished by having the post assigned to the United Nations Information Service in Vienna.

30. Noting that the term "former Yugoslavia" was often used in United Nations publications, as though it were the official name of the State, he said it should be emphasized that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had been dissolved four years ago and that Croatia, as well as some other successor States, had been Members of the United Nations for more than three years. His delegation considered that the names of those States should be employed and not the term "former Yugoslavia". Furthermore, his delegation had noted that in various DPI press releases, the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" was listed as a party to various international treaties. It should be remembered that the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" could not be considered a Member State of the United Nations and that its claim to automatic succession to various international treaties had not been accepted by the international community. That should be reflected in the Department's press releases, and his delegation appealed to the Department to be more vigilant in that regard.

31. The activities of the Department of Public Information could greatly benefit peace-keeping operations. Accurate information could contribute

positively to the process of confidence-building and help create the conditions for lasting peace.

32. Mr. KOZIY (Ukraine) said that his delegation had examined the Secretary-General's report (A/50/462) attentively and attached great value to the work of the Department of Public Information and its efforts to disseminate information on the activities of the Organization in dealing with the urgent problems facing the international community. In its view, the Department's cohesive approach to its tasks ensured the effectiveness of its work while at the same time economizing resources, which was especially important for the Organization at the current juncture.

33. At a time when the United Nations was being criticized in certain quarters, the Department of Public Information was its best defender, providing full and accurate information on the work of the United Nations and disseminating it throughout the world. Its large arsenal of means for the transmission of information was a powerful instrument for influencing wide sectors of the population. His delegation also took note of the effectiveness with which DPI, together with Member States, and many non-governmental organizations and private individuals, were making use of the new technologies and electronic means for the dissemination of information. Those means made it possible to receive, process and send information to broad publics efficiently. His delegation noted the successful work of the United Nations Information Centre at Kiev, which made extensive use of "INTERNET" to disseminate information on its work and the activities of the United Nations. The Centre issued quarterly bulletins in English and Ukrainian as well as press releases and periodicals.

34. Twenty-six April 1996 would mark the tenth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station which had brought the world to the brink of a global environmental disaster. His delegation had already dealt in detail with that question in the Fourth Committee in connection with agenda item 82, entitled "Effects of atomic radiation". It wished only to note that in spite of the critical shortage of energy resources, the President of Ukraine had taken the political decision to shut down the Chernobyl nuclear energy plant by the year 2000. The Chernobyl accident had not become a matter of history and, in that connection, his delegation considered it necessary for the international community to give it the closest attention. He noted that the Department of Public Information had appointed a coordinator for the activities to be carried out in connection with the anniversary of the accident and a series of activities had been planned which would be carried out at United Nations Headquarters. It should be noted that these activities would have no appreciable financial implications for the Organization as the exhibits and all necessary materials would be provided by the countries organizing these activities.

35. His delegation wished to draw attention to the statement by the Assistant Secretary-General expressing grief at the death of a colleague in one country's information centre and in that connection he recalled his country's proposal concerning the need to draw up a legal document for the protection of journalists reporting from places or regions of social or military tension.

36. Mr. ZAKARIA (Indonesia) said that one way of redressing the disparity of information between developed and developing countries was the building of infrastructures. Equally important was the need to disseminate unbiased information. His delegation welcomed the spirit of cooperation and consensus evident during the past few years. By emphasizing the critical importance of equitable participation by all Member States in the emerging new world information and communication order, the imbalances and disparities in communication capabilities could be removed and an era of the democratization of global information and communication processes ushered in.

37. His delegation was heartened by the strengthening of cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly between the Department of Public Information and the International Programme for Development and Communications of UNESCO. It appreciated the tangible progress made by the Programme in helping third world countries to develop communications infrastructures. For their part, the non-aligned countries had worked towards strengthening cooperation with UNESCO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and between those bodies and the non-aligned news agencies pool and broadcasting organizations. Those endeavours had enhanced media capabilities and fostered the development of infrastructures in numerous scientific, technological, economic, social and cultural activities.

38. His delegation wished to emphasize the important role of the media in mobilizing world public opinion. They should therefore engage in professional and factual reporting on matters of common concern with a view to providing objective information and thus promoting greater understanding among nations and their peoples. He noted with appreciation the effective implementation of the Department of Public Information's mandate and the Department's efforts to update United Nations informational and interactional capabilities, particularly through the INTERNET and other electronic networks.

39. The integration of United Nations information centres with field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should be pursued on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the views of the countries concerned and at the same time ensuring the effective functioning of those centres.

40. Mr. MBA-ALLO (Gabon) said that awareness of the vital role of information and of its importance to international development was nothing new. A new fact should now be added to that awareness, however, since not only were injustices in that area not being overcome, there was even an increasing tendency throughout the world for international events to be depicted in a one-sided way, made possible by advances in information technology which, to date, had not been adequately mastered by Africa in particular and by the developing countries in general. People living in most areas of the world, and particularly in Africa, were still confined to media ghettos only because they lacked any significant scientific capacity or other means of obtaining the necessary modern technology. Instead of becoming actors in the ongoing historical processes of the world, they were relegated to the role of mere pawns in another "history", shaped by the conjuring forces of certain other countries which held the keys to the realm of modern science.

41. The time had come to restore the missing link, and thus to ensure that the global village was not merely a fanciful goal, but a reality benefiting all countries and all regions. In that connection, Gabon reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and international cooperation in general. In addition, Gabon actively advocated South-South cooperation in the area of information and communications. Such cooperation exemplified by the work of the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries and of the Coordinating Committee of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool, fostered the establishment of a new international order in the area of information and communications sensitive to the aspirations and common interests of the developing countries.

42. The publication Africa Recovery continued to exert considerable influence on African and international mass media, as well as on managers, teachers, research workers and non-governmental organizations. His delegation also commended the Department on its work in promoting and covering the major international conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations during 1995, as well as the Special Commemorative Meeting on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

43. It should be noted, however, that the shortage - and even total lack - of financial resources remained a weak link. Over a period of about 15 years, the Department's budget had undergone zero growth. In many respects, its trend even appeared to be in inverse proportion to the growth of its mandate. For that reason, it was essential to mobilize sufficient financial resources, commensurate with the tasks assigned to the Department.

44. Gabon drew attention again to the request to the United Nations to open an information centre in Libreville. That request was contained in paragraph 17 of draft resolution B. While in some countries the United Nations information centres were considered a luxury, in developing countries they often served as the sole source of information on international politics and on the Organization itself, and they also provided good research libraries.

45. Mr. AL-OTAIBI (Kuwait) said that his delegation appealed to all delegations to pay their arrears to the United Nations, to ensure that the Organization, including DPI, would be able to perform its functions. It was not logical for States to expect the Department to widen the scope of its work, without at the same time meeting their own obligations to the United Nations.

46. Associating himself with the statements made by representatives of other developing countries, he urged DPI and UNESCO to step up their efforts to strengthen the information infrastructure in the developing countries. Particular importance attached to the establishment of a new international order in the area of information and communications, capable of ensuring the unimpeded flow of information. He hoped that the Department would continue to coordinate its work with other bodies dealing with information issues. In that connection, he stressed the importance of cooperation with the Committee on Information.

47. One of the primary functions of DPI was to publicize achievements in the political, economic and social areas of which the Organization was justifiably

proud. The liberation of Kuwait, in which the United Nations had played a leading role by expelling Iraq from Kuwaiti territory, ending the Iraqi occupation and restoring the Kuwait-Iraq frontier, set a standard to be followed in upholding the purposes and principles of the United Nations. His country hoped that the Department would issue a publication describing that historic and unprecedented accomplishment.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued)

48. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) noted that, at the previous meeting, the deadline for the submission of draft proposals under agenda item 18 had been extended to 6 p.m. of the same day. At the very last minute, one delegation had submitted a draft resolution on Western Sahara. His delegation was grateful to all those delegations which had heeded its appeal and had not sponsored the draft. Preparation of the draft had been shrouded in complete silence and Morocco - one of the main parties concerned - had not been consulted. That was contradictory to democratic principles designed to ensure consensus. He emphasized that the draft resolution submitted to the Secretariat should be disseminated precisely as it had been submitted, with the name of only one sponsor. If additional sponsors appeared subsequently, an appropriate announcement could be made by the Chairman or a revised text could be issued listing their names.

49. Mr. SAI (Algeria) said that the draft resolution had been submitted in full compliance with the rules. There could be no question of its withdrawal.

50. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said, by way of clarification, that he was not talking of the withdrawal of the draft, but merely stating that, when it was issued, it should indicate only that delegation which had submitted it, since, at the time of its submission, there had been no other sponsors.

51. Mr. SAI (Algeria) said that there could be no question of removing the names of the other sponsors. The list of sponsors should remain as it was. Since the issue was the responsibility of another member of the Algerian delegation, he reserved the right to revert to it at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.